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Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Clerk's Office
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211
DOCKET NUMBER 2011-271-E

Dear Sirs:

Since I may not be able to attend the public hearing in person, I would like my letter to be an official voice in reference to the public hearing, in reference to Duke Energy's rate increase, on Oct 19th, 2011 at Spartanburg Community College.

We are on a fixed income and are struggling to meet our basic needs (including the bills). By raising their rates, Duke Energy would be increasing the burden on us and many other families. Government agencies do not allocate for cost of living increases. The cost of living has increased, gas is over \$3.00, unemployment is over 9%, and Duke Energy wants to increase their rates to make more money. Another reason Duke Energy should not be allowed to increase their rates is that they have one rule and will not allow even the smallest change to the rule. The payment arrangement plan is absolutely ridiculous. Currently we have an arrangement that allows making payments to pay for our electric (which is ok), however, since my spouse does not receive her SS check until the 3rd and their payment plan calls for a payment on the second, Duke will not allow for 1 more to make payment. Their computer will not allow for the change. My question is who entered the information in the computer? Their "convenience" fee is through Western Union (DIRECT PAYMENT TO DUKE); however you can make a payment to a third party (at no cost). People on a fixed income cannot afford to pay more. NO TO ANY RATE INCREASE

Thank You,
Mark M Giambiasi

Signature

10/27/2011

Date